

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24), a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, attended the unveiling of the 2009 New York State Rail Plan in Albany today, along with fellow elected officials.

“I am glad New York State recognizes the importance of rail infrastructure for economic growth and development in communities across Upstate New York. I am especially pleased that the State is committed to maintaining Utica, and the Mohawk Valley, as a connection between Albany and Niagara Falls to help area businesses and commuters alike.

“By outlining the State’s commitment to both passenger and freight rail service, the 2009 New York State Rail Plan is a critical first step in bringing federal Recovery Bill funds here where we need them to invest in our infrastructure and, most importantly, our future.”

The 2009 New York State Rail Plan, announced today, includes an inventory of freight and passenger rail system infrastructure needs, over the next 20 years, in New York State. The Plan outlines priority projects that could receive funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill), which Arcuri voted for and the President signed into law. The Recovery Bill included \$8 billion for high speed rail and \$9.3 billion for Intercity Passenger Rail nationwide.

Later this year, Congress will reauthorize the Federal Surface Transportation Act (commonly referred to as the “Highway Bill”), which will fund transportation infrastructure projects over the next six years. As the most senior Upstate New Yorker on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Arcuri is uniquely positioned to fight for additional resources to develop highway and rail infrastructure throughout the region.

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